

What is claimed is:

1. A process for the preparation of S-(-)-amlodipine, which comprises:

5 (i) reacting (R,S)-amlodipine with L-(+)-tartaric acid in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO);

(ii) filtering off the resulting precipitate of the step (i);

(iii) precipitating (S)-(-)-amlodipine-hemi-L-tartrate-DMSO-solvate by adding methylene chloride to the filtrate of the step (ii);

10 (iv) optionally forming (S)-(-)-amlodipine-hemi-L-tartrate-monohydrate by adding an alcohol to (S)-(-)-amlodipine-hemi-L-tartrate-DMSO-solvate obtained in the step (iii); and

(v) treating with a base (S)-(-)-amlodipine-hemi-L-tartrate-DMSO-solvate obtained in the step (iii) or (S)-(-)-amlodipine-hemi-L-tartrate-monohydrate obtained in the step (iv).

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2. The process of claim 1, wherein the amount of L-(+)-tartaric acid is about 0.5 ~ 0.55 eq. to 1 eq. of (R,S)-amlodipine.

20 3. The process of claim 1, wherein the amount of DMSO is about 4 – 6 times in volume (ml) to 1 gram of (R,S)-amlodipine.

25 4. The process of claim 1, wherein the amount of methylene chloride in the step (iii) is about 100 – 200 % by volume based on the volume of DMSO used in the step (i).

5. The process of claim 1, wherein the alcohol is methanol.

30 6. The process of claim 1, wherein the base is a metal hydroxide, an oxide, a carbonate, a bicarbonate, or an amide.

7. The process of claim 6, wherein the base is sodium bicarbonate.

8. The process of claim 1, wherein the step (v) is performed in an organic solvent.

5 9. The process of claim 8, wherein the organic solvent is methylene chloride.

10. (S)-(-)-amlodipine-hemi-L-tartrate-DMSO-solvate.

10 11. (S)-(-)-amlodipine-hemi-L-tartrate-monohydrate.